

Ms Helen McCluskie
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
Local Plans Team
Civic Office
Waterdale
Doncaster
South Yorkshire
DN1 3BU

Our ref: RA/2006/000147/OR-
15/PO1-L01

Your ref:

Date: 03 July 2015

Dear Ms McCluskie

BURGHWALLIS NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN – STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Thank you for your emails on the above which were received on the 14 May and 11 June 2015. Please accept my apologies for the delay in replying to you.

We note that the Council has a responsibility to advise the Parish Council if there is a need for formal Strategic Environmental Assessment of the draft Neighbourhood Plan and that you are seeking our views in order to confirm the Council's decision on this matter.

We have considered the draft plan and its policies against those environmental characteristics of the area that fall within our remit and area of interest.

The River Skell (main river) runs down the west of the settlement, with associated limited areas of flood zones 2 and 3. There is also an area of flood zone 2 to the east of the settlement around Squirrel Wood, extending across Burghwallis Common and beyond the A19. The River Skell is failing to achieve good ecological status under the Water Framework Directive.

We note that the Plan does not propose to allocate sites for development but rather, in the main, provides criteria against which development proposals will be assessed, and local built, historic and environmental assets will be protected. Having considered the nature of the policies in the Plan, we consider that it is unlikely that significant negative impacts on environmental characteristics that fall within our remit and interest will result through the implementation of the plan.

If it is the Parish's Council's intention to allocate land for development, we would make reference to the National Planning Practice Guidance, paragraph 061 which states that qualifying bodies involved in neighbourhood planning should:

- seek to ensure neighbourhood plans are informed by an appropriate assessment of flood risk;
- ensure policies steer development to areas of lower flood risk as far as possible;
- ensure that any development in an area at risk of flooding would be safe, for its lifetime taking account of climate change impacts;

- be able to demonstrate how flood risk to and from the plan area/development site(s) will be managed, so that flood risk will not be increased overall, and that opportunities to reduce flood risk, for example, through the use of sustainable drainage systems, are included in the plan.

Local planning authorities should have in mind these aims in providing advice or assistance to qualifying bodies involved in neighbourhood planning.

If you require clarification or further advice please contact me on the details below.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Beverley Lambert
Sustainable Places – Planning Advisor

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